

Online Wild Turkey check FAQ

FAQ for Online Wild Turkey Check via the *MassFishHunt* System

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- Q: **I want to check my harvested turkey online, where do I start?**

To check your harvested turkey online, you must first log into the *MassFishHunt* system by going to <http://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt><http://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt>. Also, refer the [online turkey check tutorial](#) for detailed instructions.

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- Q: **How do I log in to check my harvested game online?**

You'll need your customer ID number and your last name to log into the *MassFishHunt* system. Customer ID numbers are found on every hunting/sporting license and all permits, so simply look at the top left corner of your license or permit for the 6 or 7 digit number. Enter that number and your last name to log into the *MassFishHunt* system.

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Q: How do I know if a turkey is male or female?

Male and female turkeys are quite distinct. For the most part, male turkeys have beards and noticeable spurs during the spring season. Males are typically blackish in appearance while females are a duller bronze/brown. **Look at the tips of the breast feathers, males are black while females are brown.** Also, in the spring the head on male turkeys is often white, blue and/or red, while females are typically blueish gray in color. Males also have various fleshy features on their heads and neck (caruncles). See page 35 of the Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Guide, or visit the following link.

<http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/wild-turkey/>

MALES have some black-tipped feathers growing in.



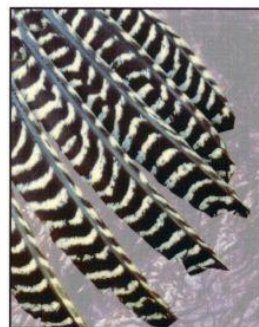
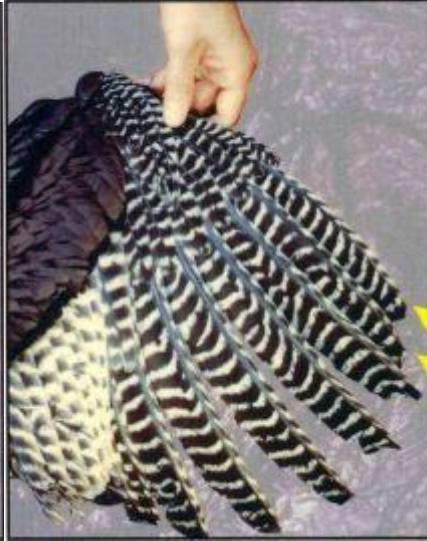
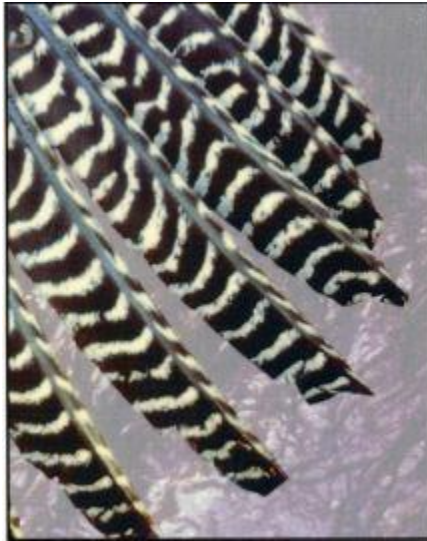
FEMALES have buff-tipped breast feathers and no black-tipped feathers growing in.



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Q: How do I determine the shape of turkey wing tips?

In the fall, it can be quite difficult to identify an adult hens from a juveniles of either sex. The best way to determine this is from the shape of the wing tips. Spread out the wings of the turkey and look at the last 2-3 feathers. **Turkeys with pointed wing tips are juveniles;** you'll also notice the white barring does **NOT** extend all the way to the tip. Over time, turkeys wear down the tips of their wings and thus adults **have rounded wing tips**, where the barring extends all the way to the tip. See pictures below. Although the tail fan is great characteristic to identify adult and juvenile males in the spring, due to the molting cycle of turkeys it is not reliable for aging in the fall. (see photos on the next page)



ADULTS
have rounded
feathers with
white barring
on tip.

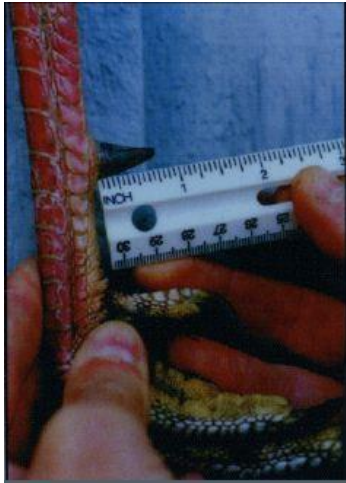


JUVENILES
have narrow
pointed
feathers with
no white bars
on the last 2
inches.

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Q: How do I measure the spur on a harvested turkey?

Turkey spurs are nail-like features that extend off of a male turkeys leg above the foot. To measure the spur, place a ruler at the base of the spur and measure to the tip of the spur. Adult turkeys have spurs that are greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ ", juvenile turkeys (i.e., jakes), have spurs that are less than $\frac{1}{2}$ " and are typically small rounded bumps. Female turkeys can ONLY be harvested if they have beards during the spring sesason, but will NOT have noticeable spurs.



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Q: How do I measure the beard on a harvested turkey?

Turkey beards are hair like features (though actually just a modified feather) that extend down from the center of a turkeys chest. Occasionally, females will have beards and can be legally harvested during the spring season, but overwhelmingly bearded turkeys are male.



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Q: What if I can't write the confirmation number on my harvest tag?

Regulations require that, after checking your turkey online, the unique confirmation number must be written on the harvest tag, which must remain on the turkey until it is processed for food or delivered to a taxidermist. This means the harvest tag must remain in good condition during transport from the field. Without protection, wet and/or dirty conditions may cause the tag to deteriorate. Prevent this by protecting the tag (e.g., place in a sealable plastic bag or license holder). Also, plan ahead on how you will attach the tag to the turkey; some options include a large safety pin, twist tie, or string. If you absolutely cannot write the confirmation number of the tag, write the confirmation number on a separate piece of paper and attach it to the original tag on the turkey.

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Q: I made a mistake upon entering my information while checking my turkey online but can't fix the mistake because it was already submitted?

Once all the information is submitted and confirmed, hunters can not go back and edit the information. If you believe you made a mistake and submitted inaccurate information, please contact MassWildlife at 508-389-6300 from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday-Friday.

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Q: I entered all my harvest information, but did not receive a confirmation number, what now?

If you submitted you checked your game through the MassFishHunt but did not receive a confirmation number, please contact MassWildlife at 508-389-6300 from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday-Friday. If it is outside of those hours, please contact the Environmental Police at 1-800-632-8075.

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